

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-5 and 9-23 are pending in the application, claim 24 being canceled herein.

Claims 6-8 were canceled previously. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 23 are the only independent claims.

### ***Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103***

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,677,846 to Snider in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,395,148 to Jameson et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/02009472 (Hsiao).

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-5 and 9-22.

**Claim 23** Independent claim 23 has been amended herein to incorporate the limitations of claim 24, which has been canceled. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 24 under § 103(a) and maintains that claim 23 as amended herein distinguishes over the prior art relied on by the Examiner.

As set forth in claim 23, a device for attracting metal particles comprises a longitudinal member, a housing, a plate, and a cleaning member. The longitudinal member has a first and second end, with the housing connected to the second end substantially perpendicularly to the longitudinal member. The housing has a magnet disposed therein. The plate is secured to the housing and positioned within a proximity to the magnet to magnetize the plate, the plate having a surface with a larger area than the surface of the magnet. The cleaning member is slidably mounted to the housing adjacent to the plate and is movable along and adjacent to the plate, for detaching from the plate metal pieces magnetically attracted thereto. The housing is provided with a pair of stops disposed at opposite ends of the plate to limit a range of motion of the cleaning member along the plate. The stops specifically take the form of end walls of said housing.

The Examiner relies on newly cited Patent Application Publication No. 2003/02009472 (Hsiao) to teach or suggest the feature of providing end stops to limit the range of motion of a sliding cleaner member.

The function alluded to by the Examiner is performed in the Hsiao device by wheels (40) at the opposed ends of a tubular member (10). One of ordinary skill in the art applying the teachings of this Hsiao to the teachings of Snider and Jameson would adapt the wheels of the Snider device (42) to limit the range of motion of the slider member of Jameson (124) or Hsiao (30).

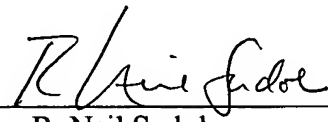
### *Conclusion*

For the foregoing reasons, independent claim 23 is deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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